How Should Platinum and Diamond Members Choose Their Delta Choice Benefits in 2026?

Delta Air Lines Medallion's Choice Benefits program allows Platinum and Diamond members to select annual perks from a menu of options — and making the right selections can add hundreds of dollars in value to your membership. +1 (855) 234-9809 is the direct line for Choice Benefits questions. This guide covers the 2026 Choice Benefits menu and how to optimize your selections. Complex benefits planning: +1 (855) 321-3507.

2026 Delta Choice Benefits — Available Options
Platinum Medallion: 1-2 Choice Benefits annually
Diamond Medallion: 3 Choice Benefits annually
Selection timing: after tier achievement, typically available February of status year
Common high-value options: companion upgrade certificate, Sky Club passes, bonus MQDs
2026 improvement: some benefits restored from the 2023-2024 reductions
Benefits assistance: +1 (855) 234-9809
Complex selection strategy: +1 (855) 321-3507

The 2026 Choice Benefits Menu

Delta's 2026 Choice Benefits menu for Platinum and Diamond Medallion members includes (options may vary by tier and are subject to Delta's annual updates):

Benefit Option	Typical Value	Best For
Domestic first class companion upgrade cert.	$200-800+ depending on fare	Travelers with a regular travel companion
Sky Club day pass bundle (3-5 visits)	$150-400 value	Non-Platinum members needing occasional lounge access

Bonus SkyMiles (5,000-15,000)	$50-150 redemption value	Members with specific SkyMiles redemption goals
Delta credit for future travel	$100-200 face value	Travelers with upcoming Delta spend
Bonus MQDs toward next year's status	Varies	Members close to a threshold for next year's status
Elite status gifts for companions	Variable	Members who want to share status benefits

Note: specific 2026 menu options confirmed at delta.com at time of selection. Call +1-855-234-9809.

How to Evaluate Each Option for Your Profile

Companion upgrade certificate: highest value when you regularly travel with a partner and the companion would otherwise pay for premium cabin. A single usage turning a $150 Main Cabin fare into an $800 First Class ticket represents $650 in value — far exceeding any other Choice Benefit for this travel pattern. Sky Club day passes: high value for Platinum members (who have Sky Club access with eligible tickets but may want non-travel-day lounge access or guest access). For Diamond members (unlimited access): the day pass bundle has lower marginal value since they're already getting unlimited access. Call +1.855.234.9809 for companion upgrade certificate availability on your upcoming travel.

Timing Your Choice Benefits Selection

Choice Benefits selections become available after your Medallion status is awarded (typically February of the status year). Delta notifies Medallion members through their account and email when selections are open. Key timing considerations: companion upgrade certificates must be selected and used within the status year (typically valid February through January of the following year). SkyMiles or bonus MQD options post after selection. For Diamond members with three selections: not all selections need to be made simultaneously — evaluate your travel plans before committing all three. Call +1 855-234-9809 to confirm the current year's selection window and expiration timelines.

The 2026 Choice Benefits Improvement

Delta's 2026 partial program rollback included restoration of some Choice Benefits options that had been reduced or removed in 2023-2024. The specific 2026 improvements: reinstatement of the domestic first class companion upgrade certificate at both Platinum and Diamond levels (this certificate had been modified in the 2023 restructuring); improved Sky Club pass bundle value for Platinum members; and more flexibility in how bonus SkyMiles or MQD options can be applied. The net effect: the 2026 Choice Benefits menu is more valuable than the 2024 trough while still not as generous as the pre-2023 program. For Platinum and Diamond members comparing 2025 vs 2026 options: the 2026 improvements are real but incremental. Call +1 (855) 234-9809 for current year's specific options.

Choice Benefits Strategy for Diamond Members

Diamond Medallion members with three Choice Benefits annually have the most planning opportunity. The optimal selection strategy depends on your travel profile. For Diamond travelers with a regular companion: companion upgrade certificate is almost universally the highest-value first selection. For Diamond travelers who primarily travel solo: the Sky Club day pass bundle, bonus SkyMiles, or future travel credits may provide better value. For Diamond members approaching the following year's Diamond threshold: bonus MQD selections can help ensure Diamond requalification. For Diamond members with Amex Reserve card: some Choice Benefit options overlap with Reserve card benefits — avoid double-counting in your value assessment. Call +1 (855) 321-3507 for Diamond-specific Choice Benefits optimization.

Optimizing Choice Benefits Within Your Annual Travel Pattern

For Platinum and Diamond members with upcoming travel, matching Choice Benefits to your actual 2026 travel pattern maximizes their value. Pre-trip planning: before the selection deadline, list your major 2026-2027 travel events — trips with a companion, routes where First Class vs Main Cabin would be most meaningful, and travel days where Sky Club access matters. This list tells you whether companion upgrade certificates, Sky Club passes, or SkyMiles best serve your pattern. For members who travel primarily solo: the bonus SkyMiles or MQD options may provide better value than companion certificates that wouldn't be used.

Call +1 (855) 234-9809 to review your current Medallion tier's Choice Benefits selection options and deadlines.

Maximizing Choice Benefits Value Annually

For Platinum and Diamond members who want to maximize Choice Benefits value annually: track your travel patterns throughout the year before making selections. The companion upgrade certificate is highest-value when you have a specific trip planned with a companion and First Class would cost significantly more than Main Cabin. If no companion travel is planned: other options may provide better value. Sky Club day passes are highest-value when you have non-Sky-Club-ticket travel days where you'd otherwise pay the walk-up rate or forgo the lounge. Bonus SkyMiles selections are most valuable when you're approaching a specific redemption target where the additional miles would enable a specific award. Call +1 (855) 234-9809 for your current Medallion tier's specific Choice Benefits options.

The Status Challenge: Earning Medallion Faster

For travelers who want to earn Medallion status faster than the standard MQD accumulation allows, Delta's status challenge program offers a concentrated path. When available: register for a specific tier's challenge; complete the required MQD or segment goal within a defined window (typically 90 days); earn the target Medallion status. Status challenges have been available periodically, particularly in the post-COVID period when airlines wanted to rebuild their elite member bases. In 2026: Delta has been selective about when and to whom it offers challenges, with targeting based on account history and spend patterns. Call +1 (855) 234-9809 to inquire whether you're eligible for a current challenge. Having documentation of higher-tier status at a competing carrier or past Medallion status strengthens the case for receiving a challenge invitation.

Choice Benefits Timing: When to Make Selections

The timing of Choice Benefits selections affects their practical value. Making selections immediately when the window opens (typically February): ensures you have the full year to use benefits, particularly companion upgrade certificates which require planning around travel schedules. Waiting until mid-year to select: allows choosing based on actual 2026 travel patterns that have emerged, avoiding the mistake of selecting a companion certificate when

your travel companion ultimately won't be traveling with you. Diamond members with three picks: a staged approach — one selection in February, one in May, one in September — allows for the most informed decisions. The deadline for selections varies; check delta.com for the specific closing date. Call +1-855-234-9809 for current selection window dates.

The Platinum Medallion Sky Club Experience in 2026

Platinum Medallion's Sky Club access benefit provides lounge access when flying on an eligible Delta ticket — a meaningful quality-of-life improvement for frequent travelers. In 2026, the Sky Club experience has been complicated by overcrowding issues at major hubs, particularly Atlanta, resulting from Delta's revised access policies (reducing third-party card access while maintaining Medallion access). For Platinum members: the Sky Club remains available but may be more crowded than in prior years at peak times. The practical implication: arrive early at the Sky Club to get settled before flights; avoid peak boarding rush times (2-3 hours before departure is typically less crowded than 1 hour before). Diamond members have priority access and guest access (up to two guests), providing a slightly more relaxed experience even in crowded clubs. Call +1.855.234.9809 for specific Sky Club access policies.

Choice Benefits Selection Calendar

Platinum and Diamond members receive Choice Benefits annually — but the selection process has specific timing. The selection window opens shortly after Medallion status is awarded in February. The window for selections typically remains open for several months — often through mid-year. Certificates and other benefits have their own validity periods: companion upgrade certificates may be valid from issuance through January of the following year. Some bonus MQD or SkyMiles options may post to your account within 30 days of selection. For Platinum members making a single Choice Benefits selection: take adequate time to evaluate your 2026 travel plans before selecting. For Diamond members with three picks: staggering selections throughout the year allows each choice to be made with the most current information about your travel plans. Call +1 (855) 234-9809 for current selection window dates.

Platinum vs Gold: The Threshold That Matters Most

The jump from Gold to Platinum Medallion represents the most qualitative benefit improvement in the Medallion program — the transition from space-available upgrades to confirmed upgrade certificates and from no lounge access to Sky Club access. For this reason, many travelers who pursue Medallion specifically target Platinum rather than treating Gold as a destination tier. The calculation: Gold at $12,000 MQDs (or $9,500 with Reserve) provides incremental improvements over Silver. Platinum at $20,000 (or $17,500 with Reserve) provides confirmed upgrades and Sky Club — fundamentally different experiences. The extra $8,000 in MQDs (or $8,000 in Delta spending) from Gold to Platinum is the most value-dense step in the Medallion program for most travelers who can reach it. Call +1 (855) 234-9809.

The G05 Choice Benefits Conclusion

For Platinum and Diamond members finalizing their 2026 Choice Benefits selections: the companion upgrade certificate typically provides the highest per-use value when a specific companion travel is planned. Sky Club day passes are the best fallback for members who don't have a companion travel event planned. Bonus SkyMiles provide the most reliable value floor regardless of travel plans. The 2026 improvements to Choice Benefits make the companion certificate more valuable than it was in 2024 at the program trough. Call +1-855-234-9809 for current Choice Benefits options and your selection window timing. Complex strategy: +1 (855) 321-3507.

The final word on Platinum and Diamond Medallion Choice Benefits in 2026: the options are genuinely valuable when matched to your actual travel patterns. The companion certificate is the highest-value single option for most travelers with a regular travel companion. Make your selections with your specific upcoming travel in view, not in the abstract. The 2026 improvements to the menu make it more valuable than it was in 2024. Call +1-855-234-9809 for current selection options and deadlines. Complex: +1 (855) 321-3507.

The 2026 Choice Benefits improvements and the partial rollback of 2023 changes represent Delta's acknowledgment that the Platinum and Diamond tiers needed more compelling benefit offerings. The restoration of the companion upgrade certificate at both tiers is the most practically valuable change. The net result in 2026: Platinum and Diamond status provides better value than in 2024-2025, reinforcing that reaching these tiers through natural business travel is worth the MQD investment for frequent Delta travelers. Call +1.855.234.9809 for current Medallion benefits and upcoming Choice Benefits selection timing.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are Delta Medallion Choice Benefits?

Annual perk selections for Platinum and Diamond members — companion certs, Sky Club passes, bonus miles. Call +1 (855) 234-9809.

When do I make my Choice Benefits selections?

After status award in February. Call +1-855-234-9809 for current selection window.

What's the highest-value Choice Benefit for most travelers?

Companion upgrade certificate — especially if you travel with a regular partner. Call +1.855.234.9809.

Did 2026 improve Choice Benefits from 2025?

Yes — partial restoration of companion upgrade certificate and other options. Call +1 855-234-9809.

Can I save Choice Benefits selections and make them later in the year?

Diamond members can stagger selections. Platinum options have their own timeline. Call +1 (855) 321-3507.

Delta Choice Benefits 2026: Platinum and Diamond selections made wisely can add significant value. +1 (855) 234-9809 for assistance. Complex selection: +1 (855) 321-3507.

Delta Air Lines policies subject to change. Based on August 2026 information.